

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as follows:

In FIG. 14, step 1406, please change “PREVIOS” to –PREVIOUS--.

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 15-23, 25, 27-32, 37, 39-47, and 49 have been amended. Claims 2, 12-14, 26, and 38 have been canceled without prejudice.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating Claims 2-7, 14-18, 20-23, 26-33, and 38-43 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as well as any corrections to the objections below.

The 12/6/2004 Office Action objected to Claims 6, 7, 18, 20, 22, 30, 31, 42, and 43 because of the following informalities:

- a) On line 2 of Claims 6, 7, 30, and 31 and on line 3 of Claims 18, 20, 42, and 43, replace “the” with –an- before “ICMP” and
- b) On line 3 of claim 22, delete “the” after “by”.

Applicants have amended Claims 6, 7, 18, 20, 22, 30, 31, 42, and 43 to overcome the objections.

The Office Action rejected Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Warriar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,707,809 B1).

Claim 11 has been amended to include limitations from Claims 12-14. Since the Office Action stated Claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicants respectfully request allowance of amended Claim 11 and its dependent Claims 15-24.

Applicants note that Warriar does not disclose or suggest the “inactivity timer” of Claim 11. The “lifetime value” in Warriar is negotiated by the home agent and mobile node and represents the “amount of time the home agent will hold packets destined for the mobile node after it has transitioned to an idle state” (Warriar col. 6, lines 39-42 and Fig. 3). In contrast, the “inactivity timer” in Claim 11 “monitor[[s]] an activity status of the corresponding mobile node.” Applicants’ Fig. 12 shows separate fields for “LIFETIME 1212” and “INACTIVITY TIMER 1214.”

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 8-10, 12, 13, 19, 24, 25, 34-37, and 44-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Warriar et al. in view of Soininen et al. (WO 01/05171 A1).

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations from Claim 2. Since the Office Action stated Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicants respectfully request allowance of amended Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 3-10.

Claim 25 has been amended to include limitations from Claim 26. Since the Office Action stated Claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicants respectfully request allowance of amended Claim 25 and its dependent Claims 27-36.

Claim 37 has been amended to include limitations from Claim 38. Since the Office Action stated Claim 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicants respectfully request allowance of amended Claim 37 and its dependent Claims 39-48.

Claim 49 has been amended to include limitations from Claims 1 and 2. Since the Office Action stated Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicants respectfully request allowance of amended Claim 49.

Applicants note that Warrier does not disclose or suggest the “inactivity timer” of independent Claim 1, 25, and 37, as stated above for Claim 11.

Applicants also note that Soininen does not disclose or suggest the “inactivity timer” “at the home agent,” as recited in independent Claims 1, 25, and 37. Fig. 1 of Soininen shows the “HA” home agent and “FA” foreign agent as separate entities. Fig. 4 of Soininen shows a block diagram of a GGSN which includes a “FA” foreign agent. Pages 5, 12-14 of Soininen do not describe functions at a “home agent.” For example, page 14, line 25 states “the foreign agent FA is integrated into the GGSN.”

Second, Soininen also does not disclose or suggest the “overload condition,” as recited in independent Claims 1, 25 and 37. According to the Office Action, Soininen teaches an “overload condition” at page 5, lines 26-34, and at page 14, lines 23-32. Page 14, lines 23-32 of Soininen describe a “determining means 46” as quoted below:

Figure 4 is a block diagram illustrating the functional blocks of the GGSN involved in the present invention. Firstly, a macro mobility management entity 44, such as the foreign agent FA, is integrated into the GGSN. Further, monitoring means 45 are provided for monitoring the macro mobility (MIP) registration. Determining means 46 are provided for determining on the basis of the result of the mitered registration whether there is at least one unnecessary PDP

context. Triggering means 47 are responsive to the determining means 46 so as to trigger a deletion of any determined unnecessary PDP context. PDP context deletion means stand for any entity or functionality in the system which is required for deleting a PDP context.

This paragraph states Soininen's "[d]etermining means 46 are provided for determining on the basis of the result of the mitered registration whether there is at least one unnecessary PDP context." The function of the determining means 46 is to determine whether "there is at least one unnecessary PDP context," not whether an "overload condition" exists, as recited in Applicants' Claims 1, 25 and 37. Determining the existence of an "unnecessary PDP context" does not disclose, suggest or inherently require "identifying an "overload condition," as recited in Claims 1, 25 and 37.

Drawings

The amendment to Fig. 14 simply corrects a typographical error pursuant to the Office Action and does not make any substantive changes or introduce any new material. Approval and entry of the above amendments are respectfully requested.

Applicants have concurrently filed herewith a Letter to the Official Draftsperson submitting formal drawings to replace the originally filed formal drawings, including corrected drawing informalities indicated in this amendment.

Specification

Applicants provide herewith amendments to the specification. The amendments to the specification are made by presenting marked up replacement paragraphs which identify changes made relative to the immediate prior version. The changes made are primarily typographical or grammatical in nature, or involve minor clarifications of awkward wordings or inconsistent terms or phrases. Applicants believe these changes add no new matter to the application and are fully supported by the original disclosure.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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